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Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

21
ACTION MC-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DODE-00 EB-07 NRC-05 NSAE-00

TRSE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 PM-04 ACDA-05 NEA-10

/051 W
---------- 109042
R 150815Z OCT 75
FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4710
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BERN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LUXEMBOURG 0853

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MILI
SUBJECT: MUNITIONS EXPORT, SHERWOOD INT'L. - MC 03430

REF: STATE 238262

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. UNITED ORDNANCE PROCUREMENT --
NEW ADDRESS 1 AVENUE DE LA GARE, LUXEMBOURG -- CONFIRMS ORDER
FROM SHERWOOD INTERNATIONAL EXPORT CORPORATION FOR $840
WORTH OF SPARE PARTS OF "TOOL BOX TYPE." COMPANY MENTIONED
ADDITIONAL PENDING ORDER FOR $33,000 WORTH OF "NORMAL"
SPARE PARTS, ALSO FOR M-2 MACHINE GUNS. IN BOTH CASES,
EQUIPMENT IS SAID TO BE PURCHASED FOR THE SAUDI ARABIAN GOVERNMENT,
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND AVIATION, RIYADH. END-USER
DOCUMENTS HAVE BEEN FORWARDED BY UOP TO SHERWOOD INTERNATIONAL.

2. ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL GOL COMPANY REGISTRATION LIST,
UNITED ORDNANCE PROCUREMENT BEGAN OPERATIONS IN LUXEMBOURG
IN 1971 AND HAD AN ANNUAL TURNOVER OF $1.3 MILLION IN
1973 (LATEST AVAILABLE FIGURES) FROM $160 THOUSAND IN 1971.
ITS LISTED BOARD OF DIRECTORS INCLUDES A MEINHARDT KUNG,
BONN-BEUEL, GERMANY; GERHARD GEORG MERTINS, POTOMAC, MD.,
U.S.A.; AND RUEDIGER WEINREISS, BUYER, BONN, WHO IS THE
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COMPANY'S RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE IN LUXEMBOURG. ALSO

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LISTED AS COMMISSIONER IS MAX MENS, BUYER, COLOGNE.
THE COMPANY ORIGINALLY LISTED AS A DIRECTOR MOHAMMED
NIZAR AL AZEM, RESIDENT IN BEIRUT, BUT HE LEFT THE COMPANY
IN 1971.

3. MR. WEINREISS EXPLAINED THAT THE COMPANY ACTS AS
EXPORTERS IN SPARE PARTS, CARS AND VEHICLES AND MACHINERY,
PRIMARILY WITH THE SAUDI ARABIAN GOVERNMENT AS CUSTOMER.
CIVILIAN AS WELL AS MILITARY ITEMS ARE REPORTEDLY
INVOLVED. END UNCLASSIFIED.

4. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. ACCORDING TO GOL,
GENDARMERIE NATIONALE, THE BACKING FOR UNITED ORDNANCE
PROCUREMENT IS THE GERMAN FIRM MEREX GMBH, BONN-BEUEL,
A WELL-KNOWN, EVEN NOTORIOUS TRAFFICKER IN ARMS, WHICH HAS
CLOSE RELATIONS WITH WEHREXPORT GMBH, ALSO GERMAN, AND
THE SWISS COMPANY MEREX A. G. A 1971 REGISTRATION SHOWS
ONE DIRECTOR, MEINHARDT KUNZ, RESIDENT IN RIYADH.

5. U. O.P. HAS A CLEAN SLATE LOCALLY AS FAR AS PAYING
ITS TAXES, ETC., AND NONE OF ITS ARMS PURCHASES TRANSIT
LUXEMBOURG. THE GENDARMERIE CONTACT DESCRIBED AT LENGTH,
HOWEVER, CONTROVERSIES SURROUNDING MR. G. G. MERTINS,
HEAD OF MEREX -- AND DIRECTOR OF U. O. P. HE PRODUCED AN
ARTICLE FROM DERSPIEGEL DATED NOVEMBER 18, 1974 (BEING AIRMAILED
TO DEPARTMENT) ABOUT MR. MERTINS' ARMS BUSINESS WHICH
ALLEGED THAT THE BUNDESNACHRICHTENDIENST (BND) AND FRG
OFFICIALS WERE INVOLVED IN THE COMPANY'S ARMS DEALS. END
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